



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR INFORMATION CALL  
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## **Lantos Secures Funds for Local Transportation and Public Safety Projects in Year-End Omnibus Spending Bill**

**Washington, DC** – The omnibus spending bill that Congress agreed to this weekend included more than \$100,000,000 for projects benefitting transportation and public safety on the Peninsula and in San Francisco that Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) has championed.

“After repeated negotiations and months of persistent follow-up, it is gratifying to know that these funds are finally on their way to a range of initiatives to alleviate traffic, improve public health and aid law enforcement,” Lantos said. “While the massive omnibus bill has some shortcomings, it has served its purpose as a vehicle for supporting important local projects.”

The spending bill included \$100 million for the BART extension to San Francisco International Airport, the top transportation priority for the Bay Area delegation to Congress, which Lantos has spearheaded over the course of several years. The 8.7-mile, four-station extension brings BART service from Colma to the airport and the city of Millbrae. The additional funds in the omnibus bill bring the total federal contribution to \$667 million to date.

The San Francisco Water Transit Authority will receive another \$1,000,000 for a much-needed transportation alternative, the proposed ferry line from South San Francisco's Oyster Point to downtown San Francisco. The funds will purchase one ferry; additional funds will be needed for a ferry terminal at Oyster Point. The San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority estimates that starting in 2008, the new line could provide more than 2,000 passenger trips daily.

The omnibus bill also includes \$750,000 for the SamTrans Zero Emissions Bus Program, a program in tandem with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) that is expected to help relieve the congestion on the roads and to improve the environment. With the addition of the funds in the omnibus bill, the Department of Transportation will have provided \$8,483,374 to date for a fleet of zero-emission buses and the facilities to accommodate them in our area.

The spending bill also includes \$350,000 for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, including a sewer line to connect homes to Brisbane's Valley Drive pumping station, which will help reduce the risk of raw sewage overflowing into the bay, and \$500,000 to help fund the crime lab at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

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